

To this day, Secretary Mineta remains a prominent leader within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community through his work with numerous civic organizations. He is a recognized expert on transportation and homeland security issues. He received the highest civilian award in the United States when he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2006.

Of course, we could spend a good portion of our lifetime reciting Norm Mineta's achievements. I, however, would like to close my remarks by simply heralding what I believe to be the true mark of this great American statesman: through thick and thin, Norm Mineta has carried his country on his shoulders. With Secretary Mineta, no one is left behind and America can never have a bad day. For that, Norm Mineta has earned our eternal affection and commands our grateful respect.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1377, a tribute to a distinguished former member of this body, Norman Yoshio Mineta.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS M. DIEMER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman JERRY McNERNEY, and Congressman PETE STARK to recognize East Bay Municipal Utility District General Manager Dennis M. Diemer and congratulate him as he approaches his well-earned retirement.

Mr. Diemer's career in public service demonstrates his lifelong commitment to the citizens and communities of the East Bay. We are grateful to him for his service to our constituents.

He began his career with EBMUD in 1981 as a senior environmental engineer, and over the ensuing years he was promoted to positions of increasing responsibility at the agency. In 1995, the board of directors selected him to serve as acting general manager, and he was appointed as general manager on February 13, 1996.

In California, where our water fights are legendary, Dennis' collaborative approach helped EBMUD make strides toward a secure water future. Working with the district's board of directors, Dennis and his team focused on identifying and working with partners for water supply projects. He played a significant role in ending years of water wars between the East Bay, the Sacramento area, and the environmental community, an effort which evolved into the Freepport Regional Water Project.

Dennis' work has made a long-term difference in the environmental quality of the Bay Area. He has long promoted protection of San Francisco Bay, from his work in the 1980s managing a collaborative effort with local communities to abate uncontrolled sewage discharges into San Francisco to more recent efforts to forge agreements that put EBMUD and local communities on a long term path toward controlling wet weather discharges to the Bay. In addition, under his watch, the district's new long range plan included a pioneering analysis

of the potential impacts of climate change on future water supply. These actions will result in better protection of public health and the environment.

Dennis has demonstrated exceptional leadership for EBMUD, making the organizational and process improvements necessary to anticipate and adapt to changes in regulations, technology, the environment, and the world around us.

Madam Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join us in honoring General Manager Dennis Diemer for his dedicated service to the people of California and the Bay Area. We are pleased to join with his family, colleagues, and friends in congratulating Dennis on a long and highly successful career and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SUPERVISORS GAIL STEELE AND ALICE LAI-BITKER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gail Steele and Alice Lai-Bitker, who have chosen to retire from their exemplary service on the Alameda Board of Supervisors at the end of this year. Supervisors Steele and Lai-Bitker have served their districts with honor and distinction.

Supervisor Steele has held many positions of leadership in organizations in Alameda County including Alameda County Mental Health Advisory Board; Chair, Alameda Alliance for Health; Chair, Alameda County Children's Memorial Grove and Flag Committee; President of Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum/Area Joint Power Authority; Chair, Local Agency Formation Commission; Executive Committee of the Association of Bay Area Governments; and the Liaison Committee of the East Bay Regional Parks.

She served on the Hayward City Council from 1974 to 1982, and has represented the Second Supervisory District since June 1992. She served as President of the Board of Supervisors from January 1995 to January 1997, and again from January 2003 to January 2005.

Alice Lai-Bitker was unanimously appointed to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in December 2000. She was re-elected twice by voters in District Three, where she is serving until her tenure ends at the end of December 2010. In January 2009, she was selected by her colleagues to serve as President of the Board for 2009 and 2010.

During her tenure as Supervisor, Ms. Lai-Bitker has been a strong advocate for increasing health care for children. She spearheaded the No Wrong Door policy in Social Services to ensure quick and efficient service. Her work on domestic violence includes A Day of Remembrance, honoring victims of domestic violence and assisting in obtaining federal funds for a Family Justice Center in Alameda County.

Ms. Lai-Bitker chairs the Board's Health Committee and serves on the Social Service Committee. She is a member of the Alameda County Transportation Authority and she represents the Board of Supervisors on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

She is a member of the Board of the George Mark Children's House, the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare Community and California State University East Bay Institute for Mental Health and Wellness Education.

Supervisors Steele and Lai-Bitker have many notable accomplishments, and have won many awards for their contributions. I join the community in thanking each of these outstanding women for the significant impact they've had in our community.

HONORING BRIAN MULLER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Brian Muller upon his retirement as the Mariposa County Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator.

Mr. Muller has served Mariposa since February of 1981, when he started in the Sheriff's Office as a Jail Officer/Dispatcher. In November of 1985, he became a Deputy Sheriff, after which he received a series of promotions: to Sergeant in 1998, to Lieutenant in 1999 and finally to Undersheriff in 2003. Finally, Mr. Muller was appointed as the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator in January 2008 and he has ably served the County in that capacity since.

While working for the Sheriff's Office, Mr. Muller was responsible for a wide range of duties in the County, including 9-1-1 dispatch, patrol, an adult detention facility, investigations, court security, boat patrol, animal control, coroner, public administrator duties, and Sheriff's Community Organized Policing Effort (SCOPE). Mr. Muller also successfully applied for a number of grants from the State of California that benefited Mariposa County. For his service to the County, Mr. Muller received a number of awards, including the Mariposa Gazette Best Peace Officer award and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year from Mountain Crisis Services.

In addition to his many duties as Sheriff, Mr. Muller has contributed to the County in other ways. Brad and his wife Sarah are actively involved in their church and regularly assist at the Senior Center.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brad Muller for his dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Muller many years of continued success.

HONORING CLARKE WARDLAW McCANTS, JR.

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr., of Columbia, South Carolina, who passed away on December 3 of this year. Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr., was a brilliant legal mind. Growing up in Columbia in the 1930s, he distinguished himself among his peers as a fine attorney and was recognized by The Best Lawyers in America in its Trusts